A REVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, January 9. 1711.

THE Novelty of *my Text*, perhaps, may bring some People to listen to *my Doctrine*; this is all I ask, for having laid down the Premises, I shall leave you to make your own Application——— I am to Enquire into the abundant Excellency, Convenience, Pleasure, and Advantage of NATIONAL BLINDNESS.

As it has been in the Case of other most useful Discoveries, such as the *Magnet*, the *Printing-Press*, *Guns*, *Powder*, *Tobacco*, &c. so it seems to be in this, an unaccountable Thing, that the World should have been suffer'd to exist so long without it and no doubt but it hath been a great loss to Mankind, that they never obtain'd this most exquisite Art before.

I shall not Examin here, of what Growth and Original, *National Blindness* may be; whether it is born of Forreign Parents; or whether being a Native of *Britain*, Heaven may not have granted us a Patent for it, *as for a New Invention proper to this Island*, or given us an exclusive Charter for carrying on the Trade with Satan's *Black Indies*, as the *Guinea* Company doth to the Gold Coast of *Africa*?

By this new Improvement, a Nation obtains the Privilege to Dream Waking, talk in their Sleep, and do a Thousand Things they

they could not be allow'd in, if they were in a State of Eye-sight, by these happy Tenebrations.——All the Blessings of the Nether World, are Anticipated to them; the Life of the Dead is explain'd by this New Scheme, and Mystical Hell seems to be brought into Practical Experiments; we have the Confusions of it without the Torment, the Noise and Clamour without the Occasion ——A Nation overspread with this Cloud, are said to have the Felicity of Damnation, without the Penalty; they have Ignorance bestow'd upon them as a Gift, and they enjoy Darkness; this makes them struggle against the common Mercies of Life, a Thing really Hellish ——And least they should be depriv'd of the Advantages of their own Depravation, they shun the Light, whether External or Internal; two Things alone make them tremble, *these are* DEMONSTRATION and CONVICTION; *These* are all Monsters, Ghosts, Spectres, and Apparitions to them, and which they have the utmost Horror at the Sight of——*Clear Reasoning* is also another Enemy, and the Subject of their Aversion, and that which is strangest, with open Eyes, and gaping as if they would drink in the very Substance of it, they will stand and look, *as it were*, directly upon it ——And all the while know no more of it, receive nothing by it, and be no more mov'd at it, than a Stone; the Case is plain, The BLIND EVIL has possess'd them, and they see nothing; like the Eyes of the Birds over the *Rattle-Snake*, they are perfectly dazled, and made fall into his Mouth.

Some have Enquir'd into the Reason of this Wonderful Phænomena, of NATIONAL BLINDNESS; the Foundation or true Original perhaps may be hard to discover, and Authors differ about the Causes, but all agree, that like the Blindness of St. *Paul* when he was going to *Damascus*, it is not for want of Light, but by too much Light ——And I doubt, *like his*, it will never be restor'd but by Miracle.

By the happy Efficiency of this most Exquisite Accomplishment, Men are blind innumerable Ways, and yet see all the while they are;

1. Blind to their own Infirmities, and can never see the least, of all the Mistakes they make in the World.
2. They are blind to their Parties, and never see into the Bottom of their Mischiefs.
3. They are Blind to true Merit, and see none but in themselves, or in such as follow their own Opinions.
4. They are Blind to the Rules of Justice, and can see none, either Publick or Private, due to the Party they do not join with.
5. They are Blind to Heavens Commands, and Construe them all their own Way.
6. They are blind to the Interest of their Country, and will rather Ruine it, than save it by their own Party.
7. They are Blind to the known and allow'd Authority of clear Reasoning, and will hear no Body speak but themselves.
8. They are blind to Truth, and Matters of Fact, and shut their Eyes against the Light of Demonstration, resolving to be dark, in spight of Heaven and Earth.
9. They are Blind to their own Interest, and run on headlong to the Necessity of coming back to their Enemies for Deliverance.
10. They are blind to their own Duty, for they perform it wrong, whether to God their Sovereign, their Neighbours, or themselves.
11. They are Blind both to Friends and Enemies, generally taking one for t'other, both Ways.

These are some of the many Delusions, the present Age seems Committed to, and no Man can avoid calling them Pleasures and Advantages, when he observes how delighted the People of this Age are, in the Darkness that possesses them, who can suppose

ſuppoſe, but when Men chooſe their Way, deſie needful Direction, ſcorn uſeful Hints, from either Friend or Enemy, and laugh at the World round them for Fools — That they are wrapt up in their own Satisfaction, and have ſome Taſt of Pleaſure, ſome ſecret Advantages, ſome Equivalent to the many Miſchiefs the World ſees them run into, which Pleaſure none can ſee or gueſs at, but themſelves.——

However then, the World may *Condemn us in this Nation*, for the wilful Blindneſs *they may think*, we labour under; I cannot but Pronounce us, the *Happieſt Miſerable* People at this Day in the World; other Nations may Envy us, but ſure none can imitate us; in Real happy Circumſtances, Raging with Diſcontent; in Imaginary ones, Pleas'd; in Confuſions, Satisfy'd and Eaſie; in Peace Turbulent and Uneaſie; under Tyrants, Patient and Paſſive; under free Government, Mutinous and Tumultuous; under intollerable Preſſures, Eaſie and Chearful; under the Clemency of a remitting mild Hand, Uneaſie, Sullen, and Diſorderly; ſurrounded with Enemies, and preſs'd with heavy Loads of a Chargeable War, we are Bold and Enterprizing —— But when Victorious, ever Deſponding.

Happy Conſtitution! of a Nation, in whoſe Uneaſieneſs and Diſſatisfaction, there appears always the leaſt Danger, and who never ſeem ſo well pleas'd, as when they have the leaſt Occaſion for it; or ſo uneaſie, ſo timerous, and deſpairing, as when their Circumſtances are moſt Promiſing.

Will any Man ſay we are not a happy People? Who when Circumſtances ought to fill us with the utmoſt Anxiety, can be perfectly eaſie, run on, and pleaſe our ſelves with the Surface of Things: without the needleſs Fatigue of Thinking or Enquiring, where any Thing will end?

For after all, what ſignifies Mankind looking beyond the Day they live in? They really have no Claim to the leaſt part of to-Morrow; futurity is no part of our Entail'd Eſtate, and what is Poſterity to us? As the Morrow is to take Thought for itſelf, ſo the People of to-Morrow may take care of themſelves; what need we be concern'd about them?

Upon the whole, without doubt, to be Thoughtleſs of Events, eaſie under remedyleſs Evils, unconcern'd for any Thing, but what we feel, and Gallantly Brave in precipitating our own Circumſtances; theſe; as they are all parts of the Great Epedemick, I call NATIONAL BLINDNESS; ſo they are not without their Advantages, and are many Ways Satisfactory to the People that are Acted by them; in which, let our Philoſophers find me out a Nation to Match us, whether among the Ancients or the Moderns, *Excluſive of the Jews in Jeruſalem*, if they can.

ADVERTISEMENT.

THE Author of this Paper having receiv'd many importunate Letters a long time, preſſing him to go on with his ſo often promis'd Diſcourſes upon Trade——Gives this Notice.

That having often Eſſay'd to carry on a continu'd Diſcourſe upon Trade in this Paper, but been unavoidably prevented by the Fury of the Times, an unhappineſs the Author did not foreſee when this Work was undertaken—— And finding it impoſſible to have his Eſſays upon Trade purſu'd in this Paper, in ſuch an uninterrupted Manner as a Subject of that Conſequence requires; ſome Gentlemen, who deſire that Work to be carried on, have made a Propoſal, for the Writing a REVIEW to be entirely taken up upon the Subject of Trade, with a Miſcellany, *or a part reſerv'd to handle Particular Caſes in Trade——And expreſly condition'd not to meddle with Matters of State, Diviſions of Parties, or any thing relating to the Affairs of Government, Civil or Eccleſiaſtick.*

This Work is propos'd to be Subſcrib'd by ſuch Gentlemen as think fit to encourage it, till it may be able to ſupport it ſelf; in which the Author hopes he may pleaſe you all, and may have an opportunity to lay down the unpleaſant

pleasant Subject of the Nation's Division; a Thing he has long desir'd to do.

The Proposals shall be Publish'd in this Paper, as soon as it is brought to a Conclusion, Mean time any Gentlemen that are willing to Encourage such a Work, may let the Author know it by Letter, or such Method as they think fit.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

WHEREAS Many Persons, that some Months or perhaps Years past, had the Misfortune to get the first Degree o the Venereal Disease, and have still remaining upon them, a small Weakness, altho the Malignity and other Symptoms of the aforesaid Distemper are perfectly overcome and eradicattd; which Weakness is very dangerous, and if not perfectly stopt, certainly ruins the Constitution, and proves of dreadful Consequence to the unhappy Patients; and that it is very difficult to be entirely cur'd, and seldom is taken off by many of the Practitioners in the said Disease, (tho' Ingenious Men) the most eminent Physicians do allow. This is therefore to give Notice, that One of great Practice, and very large Experience, having some Years since found out admirable Medicines, that in a few Days always did, and assuredly ever will, without Delay, safely Cure and stop any such Weakness, &c. tho' of many Years standing, so as never to return again, has now for the Sake of those unfortunate Persons, that are fatigued with that troublesome and mischievous Disorder, and have spent perhaps many Pounds to get cur'd, but in vain, appointed the abovemention'd Excellent Medicines, establish'd, upon Reason, and always successful Experience, and which will absolutely compleat the Cure, so as not to break out again; to be Sold only at Mr. *Salkild's*, at the *Blue Post*, next Door to Mr. *Tonson's* Printing House, in *Earls Court* in *Bow Street*, near *Covent Garden* — At a *Guinea* the Parcel seal'd up with a little Book of Directions; wherein are also set down plain Rules whereby any Person may certainly know whether the Venom or Malignancy of this Distemper, be entirely eradicated or no.

INstant Cure for Diseases of the Nerves, whether Palsical, Convulsive, Trembling, Contraction, Relaxations, Weakness, Numbness, Coldness or the like; by Cephalick Tincture, whose Effects are realy Wonderful, not to be believ'd, but by those that have taken it, be the Disease from whatsoever Cause, or seated in any particular part, as Head, Back, Limbs, or whole Body; to be had for 3 s. 6 d. the Bottle, with Directions, at the Golden Key in Wartons Court near Holborn Bars.

☞ A New Treatise of the Venereal Disease; In two Parts; the first of which Treats, 1. Of the Name and Orignal Cause of this Disease. 2. Of the Essence and Nature of the Infection. 3. Of the various Ways of Giving and Receiving, Symptoms first Discovering, an infallible Way of preventing its Infections. 4. Of a C— and its Symptoms. 5. Of the Cure of a C—. 6. Of a simple Gonorrhea, and all Weaknesses in Men and Women; and their Cure. 7. Of a confirm'd P—, and its Cure. 8. Of Mercury, its good Effects, and how to Remedy its ill Effects. 9. Of the P— complicated with other Diseases. 10. Of Diet, &c. proper for Venereal Patients. The second Part contains an effectual Answer to Mr. *Martin's* Treatise concerning the Venereal Disease, and the Charitable Surgeon, Sold (Pr. 1 *s.*) at my House the *Golden Ball* between the *Sun* and *Castle* Taverns in *Milkstreet Market, Cheapside.*

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